



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 October 2007

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- *CNN* reports that the Government Accountability Office presented a report to the senate on Thursday revealing that government investigators were able to smuggle “a duffle bag with contents that looked like radioactive material” into the U.S from Canada without being intercepted by border authorities. (See item [11](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that the U.S. rail system is exceedingly vulnerable to a terrorist attack. The director of the homeland security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies said that “tracks themselves are generally open and unguarded.” (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: **ELEVATED**,
Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 27, Bloomberg* – (National) **Crude oil rises a second day on storm risk, stockpile decline.** Forecasted storms and tropical depressions caused a fluctuation in oil prices. Crude oil prices increased in New York on the eve of a storm heading towards Mexico – the third-biggest supplier to the U.S. However, a decrease in the value of the dollar against the Euro led to “lowering the cost of oil for buyers paying in other currencies, on speculation the Federal Reserve may lower interest rates further.” Overall stockpiles increased by 1.84 million barrels last week, the first increase in five weeks. Nevertheless, the stockpiles are forecasted to

decrease due to the expected storm threat in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=awWETtVG1AdY&refer=home>

2. *September 27, CNNMoney* – (International) **Energy roundup: Bush talks climate.** President Bush opened on Thursday a two-day climate summit where he focused on exploring other alternatives to reduce carbon dioxide than the proposed cuts in greenhouses gases. China and India expressed similar views, which go against the United Nations and European countries' goals to ameliorate global warming. Nations are currently seeking "agreement on the process" as well as individual strategies, which will be implemented beyond 2012 when the Kyoto protocol expires, said the White House.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/apwire/D8RTU5R80.htm>

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Chemical Industry

3. *September 28, Reno Gazette Journal* – (Nevada) **Ag chemical incident sends 120 to hospital.** A Wednesday morning incident at the Ahlswede Ranch between Campbell and Farrell Lanes north in Mason Valley that sent 121 patients to the South Lyon Medical Center is being blamed on a spray of the agricultural chemical chloropicrin. Upon arrival, EMT's found multiple field laborers were showing symptoms including watery eyes, sore throat, difficulty breathing and nausea. According to Lyon County Emergency Management, personnel from the field's owner, Peri & Sons' Farms, informed emergency responders about an adjacent field that had recently been treated with chloropicrin; and information from Emergency Management said a weather inversion caused the chemical's off-gas, which normally dissipates into the air, to instead remain near the ground. Of the 121 people, only about 12 individuals required emergency room care. Aside from those exposed in the field, reports also came in of several students at nearby Rite of Passage Silver State Academy showing symptoms of exposure.

Source:

<http://news.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070928/MVN01/709280333/1038/MVN>

4. *September 28, South Shore Express* – (Massachusetts) **Chemical spill scare.** The Stop & Shop supermarket on Route 18 in Whitman, Massachusetts was evacuated Sunday night after what officials characterized as a freak accident. Around 8 p.m. Whitman firefighters responded to a chemical spill in the loading dock. Stop & Shop workers were unloading a 48-foot box truck when someone knocked over a wooden pallet containing a number of cleaning items, including bleach and toilet bowl cleaner. The Whitman fire chief said the items would not have been toxic on their own, but responders were concerned the combination created a toxic environment. The store was then evacuated and a 100-foot perimeter was set up around the spill. An analysis of the chemicals showed that while the fumes cause an irritation, there was no immediate danger and no mixing of the many chemicals on board the trailers.

Source:

<http://www.southshoreexpress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=3063&TM=64308.54>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

5. *September 28, Jackson Hole News* – (Wyoming) **Judge to review nuke info.** Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free, a Jackson Hole nuclear watchdog group, is declaring victory after a federal judge ordered the Department of Energy to let him review safety documents it had withheld for a nuclear reactor in Idaho. The judge ordered the department to release seven disputed documents to the court, where they will be reviewed by the judge and one technical expert provided by the government. After the review, the judge will determine what Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free will be able to read. The group had filed a request for the documents under the Freedom of Information Act in an effort to prove that the 40-year-old Advanced Test Reactor, 90 miles east of Grand Teton National Park at Idaho National Lab, was unsafe and needed extensive refurbishment for being used in further programs the government has proposed for the facility. In late May, the DOE released unedited copies of three documents concerning the safety of the Idaho National Lab. According to the article, the judge was careful to strike a delicate balance between fears that the release of such information could fall into the hands of terrorists, and “values important to our society,” such as “transparency and accountability in government.”

Source: http://www.jacksonholenews.com/article.php?art_id=2245

6. *September 28, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Alabama city reopening fallout shelters.** Huntsville, Alabama is creating the nation’s most ambitious fallout-shelter plan, featuring an abandoned mine big enough for 20,000 people to take cover underground. Others would take shelter in college dorms, churches, libraries and research halls that planners hope will bring the community’s shelter capacity to 300,000, or space for every man, woman and child in Huntsville and the surrounding county. Emergency planners in Huntsville say the idea makes sense because radioactive fallout could be scattered for hundreds of miles if terrorists detonated a nuclear bomb. Huntsville’s project, developed using \$70,000 from a Homeland Security grant, goes against the grain because the United States essentially scrapped its national plan for fallout shelters after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Congress cut off funding and the government published its last list of approved shelters at the end of 1992.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jtBuR84p6FU4UpQRik9iZfnn5HEQ>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *September 27, Reuters* – (New York) **Boeing gets \$292 million U.S. C-17 deal.** The Defense Department announced on Thursday that the Boeing Company received \$291.9 million to improve the upkeep of the C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft fleet. Previously, investigations showed that Air Force “failed to use appropriate methods for the decision to procure contractor support for the four-engine planes that are used to ferry troops and cargo.” Consequently, the Air Force awarded an \$871 million contract “without proper and necessary support and did not make fully informed sustainment strategy decisions,” said a 2006 Pentagon report. Under the new agreement, Boeing will handle all C-17 sustainment activities, which include materiel management and depot maintenance support.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2007-09-27T221153Z_01_N27270716_RTRIDST_0_BOEING-GLOBEMASTER-USA.XML

8. *September 27, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **EADS to boost defense activities, eyes U.S. acquisitions.** The European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS), which is the parent group of plane maker Airbus, announced in a press conference on Thursday that it will increase their purchases from U.S. companies. The EADS chief executive further expressed concerns over the decrease in the US dollar value. "Every time the dollar loses 10 cents we lose one billion euros a year," he said. The problem is that Airbus, which generates two thirds of EADS' revenue, sells its planes in dollars, but pays the costs in euros.
Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3069755&C=europe>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *September 27, Consumer Affairs* – (National) **'Job Offer' is nothing but phony check scam.** Another job scam surfaced on the internet targeting the more philanthropic recipients. The spam email sent by a certain Andy Mac from the UK offers a well-paid part-time job helping the world's orphans. "We need to raise over millions a year - through generous supporters who donate their money, time or energy. These donations are crucial in helping us improve people's lives and rise to the challenges of society's changing needs," the email read in part. The fraudster intended to then send fake cashier checks to the new 'employees' and ask them to wire 90 percent of the checks' value back to his account – they keep 10 percent for themselves. By the time the victims are informed by their banks that their cashier checks were fake, their accounts will be robbed of \$4,500. Investigators inform the public that these types of scams are also posted on job search engines such as careerbuilder.com. A recent report detected a company called "Donations Handler," which operated the same scenario claiming the charity is located in Norway.
Scenario: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2007/09/job_offer.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *September 27, The Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Jet engine fire grounds Delta flight in Indy; no one hurt.** On Thursday, an airplane at the Indianapolis Hartsfield Jackson International Airport caught fire prior to taking off for Atlanta. The pilots of the airliner – a Delta Flight carrying 132 passengers – noticed a malfunction, which turned out to be coming from one of the engines that caught fire. Passengers were evacuated and transported back to the terminal by bus where they were booked on different flights. The cause of the fire remains unidentified. No injuries were reported.
Source:
<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070927/LOCAL/709270572/1195/LOCAL18>
11. *September 27, CNN* – (National) **Report: Security on U.S.-Canada border fails terror test.** The Government Accountability Office (GAO) presented a report to the senate on Thursday criticizing the porous the border remains. Government investigators managed to smuggle "a

duffle bag with contents that looked like radioactive material” into the U.S. from Canada without being intercepted by border authorities. The ‘exercise’ was meant to evaluate how vulnerable the country is to criminals making their way into the U.S. Investigators pointed out that the southern border with Mexico, although significantly shorter than the northern border – the U.S. and Canada share more than 5,000 miles of border, while the U.S. and Mexico share 1,900 miles – is better protected and employs a considerably higher number of agents. This does not mean that the investigators did not notice gaps in the southern border protection. “Although the southern border appears to be substantially more secure, we did identify several vulnerabilities on federally managed lands where there was no CBP [Customs and Border Protection] control,” said the investigators. The GAO’s report unveiled that there are ports of entry which “have posted daytime hours and are not manned overnight.” Senators were puzzled by the report and demanded explanations and possible solutions from the national deputy chief of the Border Patrol, who acknowledged the problem but defended the higher focus on the southern border because it sees higher traffic than the border with Canada.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/09/27/border.security/index.html>

12. *September 27, Associated Press* – (National) **Damaged train rails show vulnerability.** The FBI’s suspicions that train tracks were sabotaged in Chicago sparked fears in many commuters because it revealed how vulnerable tracks are. “The tracks themselves are generally open and unguarded,” said the director of the homeland security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies noting that tracks “remain vulnerable to anyone who wishes to do something malicious.” According to a report, there are “140,000 miles of track that carry millions of rail passengers every year and scores of freight trains hauling hazardous materials. Potential sabotage also poses a risk to the untold number of people who live near tracks.” Following the Chicago incident, experts rushed to point to the fact that trains are one of the means used by terrorists to attack people and referred to the Madrid attacks in 2004 when 191 people were killed and more than 1,800 injured. The last rail major accident in the U.S., in which hundreds of people died, occurred in 2005 in Southern California when a train hit an SUV parked intentionally on the tracks. The Transportation Security Administration announced its intentions to increase rail security and pledged a \$110 million award for major rail systems.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070927/ap_on_re_us/railroad_sabotage;_ylt=AnWEIgR93l4JFD673gl_KYIG2ocA

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *September 28, Financial Times* – (National) **US shipping plan attacked.** The European shipping industry has condemned the recent U.S. requirement that all U.S.-bound containers be scanned before being entering the U.S. The law passed in August and will come into effect within 5 years, but its method of implementation is still unclear. The European Customs commissioner has stated that the requirement would “create unfair discrimination against foreign companies and leave Europe’s taxpayers footing the bill for US security.” The European Union would prefer that intelligence officers perform risk analysis on the containers to determine which need further inspection. The E.U. and U.S. will meet in November to

discuss the plan at a transatlantic economic council.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21020126/>

14. *September 26, USA Today* – (National) **Freight railroad customers complain about prices, service.** Utility, chemical, and agricultural companies have been complaining that rail companies are levying unreasonable rate increases and providing poor service in areas where they face no rail competitor. Railroads currently transport about 40% of the country's cargo, and most of their customers' goods cannot be shipped via truck. Recent consolidation of railroads has resulted in customers dependent on one rail company, creating something that may be construed as a monopoly. Congress is considering one bill that would allow competition laws to be applied to railroads, thus making them susceptible to antitrust scrutiny, and another that would permit "shippers to challenge high rates."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/2007-09-26-railroads_N.htm

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *September 28, The San Diego Union Tribune* – (California) **Growers warned of water cutbacks.** Nearly 500 farmers, ranchers and nursery owners attended two talks on the subject of water shortages in Escondido on Thursday, many expecting to face mandatory 30 percent reductions in water supplies starting January 1. Growers said it will hurt production, sales and possibly cause layoffs. Some said they could go out of business if the water cutbacks get worse. Unofficially since 1981, and officially since 1994, most growers in the county have participated in the voluntary Interruptible Agricultural Water Program. It has been good to agriculture, said a water consultant with the California Avocado Commission, saving the industry \$200 million since 1994 through discounted water rates. Under the program, however, growers must agree to be the first to face mandatory cutbacks during droughts or other water shortages. The Los Angeles-based Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which supplies imported water to the county, has proposed the 30 percent cuts in agricultural supplies to prevent shortages for residential and industrial users, and to make sure there is enough water for next year. An official order is expected in November. In addition to hot, dry weather, water supplies are threatened because the Colorado River is in the midst of an eight-year drought, and because a U.S. District Court judge ruled last month that pumps sending water south from Northern California must be turned off from December to June to protect the Delta smelt, an endangered fish. The farm bureau's executive director said local water agencies must meet their 30 percent goal. If they don't, he said, the agricultural water program could be in jeopardy. Farmers who surpass allocations will suffer penalties and flow restrictions.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20070928-9999-1mi28percent.html>

16. *September 28, Thompson Financial* – (National; International) **USDA report shows wheat crop to shrink 2%.** U.S. growers reaped a smaller-than-expected 2.067 billion bushels of wheat this year, the government reported Friday, compounding its forecast for the tightest wheat supply in three decades. Wheat crops around the world have been hurt by damaging weather this year. USDA has said the world supply of wheat will dip to its lowest level in 30

years by next summer. The U.S. stockpile would be the smallest since 1973-74. Wheat prices have soared on grain markets and USDA forecasts a record farm-gate price for this year's crop. In a final report on this year's small grain crop, USDA lowered its wheat figure by 2 percent from its August estimate due to harvest-disrupting rains in the hard red winter wheat states and hot and dry weather that crimped durum and spring wheat. Some 1.717 billion bushels of wheat were in U.S. grain bins and warehouses at the start of this month, 2 percent less than one year ago, despite a much larger crop. Since June 1, the stockpile has fallen by 806 million bushels, 27 percent more than in June-August 2006 and a sign of demand for the food grain. The Agriculture Department also said the U.S. soybean stockpile was a record 573 million bushels on September 1. That was 3 percent larger than previously estimated. The corn stockpile was 1.304 billion bushels, 14 percent larger than the prior projection.

Source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/21029397>

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Water Sector

17. *September 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Water users to sue power plants over troubled delta fish.** A coalition of water users filed a notice Thursday stating its intent to file a lawsuit alleging that power plants are harming fish in the troubled Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The four water districts allege that Mirant Corp.'s natural gas-fired power plants in Antioch and Pittsburg are harming species including the delta smelt. The plaintiffs say that Mirant's power plants pump more than a billion gallons of water a day from the delta to cool steam turbines. The process not only kills tens of thousands of fish that get sucked into the pumps, but harms their habitat by returning warmer water to the delta. The smelt's decline triggered a recent federal court decision that was expected to limit the amount of water available from the delta for people and farmers, including those served by the Belridge, Berrenda Mesa, Lost Hills, and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa water districts. Experts previously estimated that keeping fish out of the pumps could be expensive. One fish screening device costs \$7 million to purchase and \$600,000 annually to maintain. The coalition acknowledged that the power plants are just some of the potential causes of the smelt's decline. Invasive species, pollution, and other unscreened water pumps have also been identified as problems. Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/water-delta-fish-1853639-coalition-pumps>

18. *September 27, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **CDC hears chlorine complaints.** Epidemiologists and water supply regulators from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were invited to Vermont on Wednesday by the Vermont Health Department to explore what a dozen residents of Chittenden County, Vermont described as a plague of health problems – severe skin rashes, irritated eyes and more. They begged for help putting an end to use of chloramine, a water treatment chemical they blame for their woes. The experts reached no conclusion Wednesday and said they did not have the power to take immediate action. Chloramine has been used as a secondary disinfectant by Champlain Water District (CWD) since April 2006 and is used in many places across the country. The controversy began when CWD changed its water treatment system in 2006 to augment chlorine with chloramine. Chlorine used alone has two drawbacks: it dissipates quickly from water, weakening its disinfectant strength in the distant reaches of a spread-out water district; and it interacts with organic matter in the water to

produce new substances, known as disinfection byproducts, which are suspected of causing cancer. Water supply systems are under orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce these chlorine byproducts. The Vermont Health Department's chief medical officer, while sympathetic to those with symptoms, said that the Health Department must consider the greatest good for the greatest number of people. He also assured Champlain Water District customers that their water is safe.

Source:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070927/NEWS02/709270307/1007>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

19. *September 28, Thompson Financial* – (International) **Claimed discovery of antibodies to treat, prevent H5N1 avian flu virus.** Crucell NV, a Dutch biotech company, said it has discovered 21 human monoclonal antibodies for the prevention and treatment of the avian flu virus. It said the most potent of the antibodies was shown to neutralize the broadest range of H5N1 strains that have emerged between 1997 and 2004 and “may therefore provide a powerful tool in pandemic preparedness.” Crucell said the antibodies were produced by its researchers using phage display and the company’s PER.C6 technology. The results of the study were presented overnight at the 5th International Bird Flu Summit held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2007/09/28/afx4165762.html>

20. *September 27, New York Times* – (National) **Report assails oversight of clinical trials.** In a report due to be released Friday, the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services said that federal health officials did not know how many clinical trials were being conducted, audited fewer than 1 percent of the testing sites and, on the rare occasions when inspectors did appear, generally showed up long after the tests had been completed. The FDA has 200 inspectors, some of whom audit clinical trials part time, to police an estimated 350,000 testing sites. Even when those inspectors found serious problems in human trials, top drug officials in Washington downgraded their findings 68 percent of the time, the report found. Among the remaining cases, the agency almost never followed up with inspections to determine whether the corrective actions that the agency demanded had occurred. According to the report the FDA does not systematically collect trial data, so there is no way to tell how safe the nation’s clinical research is now or has been in the past. The drug agency only oversees the safety of trials by companies seeking approval to sell drugs or devices, and trials financed by the federal government. Privately financed noncommercial trials have no federal oversight. The chief medical officer at the drug agency acknowledged that it needs to put more “teeth” in its enforcement. “We are working to address these problems very aggressively,” she said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/28/health/policy/28fda.html?hp>

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Government Facilities Sector

21. *September 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Shots fired at Calif. school.** A student fired

shots inside the Las Plumas High School in Butte County, California just after 9a.m Friday morning, and deputies were trying to negotiate with him to put down the gun, authorities said. No injuries were immediately reported. He said deputies were talking to the student. It was not immediately clear where in the school the student was or if he had any hostages. A message posted on the Oroville Union High School District Web site says all six schools in the district are on lockdown.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070928/ap_on_re_us/school_shots_fired;_ylt=AiWJHYcnghQjt3O6cAvApHSs0NUE

22. *September 27, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Walter Reed report finds little progress.** More than six months after disclosures of systemic problems at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other hospitals, the Pentagon's promised fixes are threatened by staff shortages and uncertainty about how best to improve long-term care for troops, according to a report issued Wednesday. Units developed to shepherd recovering soldiers lack enough nurses and social workers, and proposals to streamline the disability evaluation system are behind schedule, according to the Government Accountability Office report. Members of a congressional oversight committee said the effort to reform the medical bureaucracy has itself become mired in bureaucracy.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-reed27sep27,1,3402459.story?coll=la-headlines-nation>

23. *September 27, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania; Massachusetts) **5 Pa. students charged in school threats.** Five Pennsylvania high school students, ages 15 and 16, were arrested on charges of making terrorist threats and creating a risk of catastrophe, after those threats shut down their school district for most of the week, police said. School officials closed the district's junior/senior high school and elementary school early on Tuesday, the day the first two were arrested. The superintendent said administrators were tipped off by students about the threats last week, and the school notified police. State police did not find weapons during a sweep of the building, he said. The school board, in an emergency meeting Tuesday night, canceled classes for the rest of the week and voted to look into new safety measures, deciding on Wednesday to have two armed, uniformed police officers on duty when school resumes next week. It also approved a new parent notification system and improved door security, but a proposal to look at buying metal detectors was tabled. The shutdown affected about 1,100 students. Meanwhile, in Plymouth, Massachusetts, a teenager who authorities say planned with his friends to get revenge on people who picked on them was convicted Thursday of plotting a Columbine-style massacre at Marshfield High School. The 19 year old was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and threatening to use deadly weapons. He was one of four youths charged in 2004 with planning to kill students and school officials.

Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hni9n155V_L_Y_u3ZXcWcL77DWw

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *September 28, New York Post* – (New York) **Planning emergency 'central'.** New York City's mayor announced that Central Park is a viable alternative for an emergency shelter in

case of disaster. The mayor discussed a design competition for a long-term emergency shelter to be financed by a Rockefeller Foundation grant. The scenario given for the competition stipulates that, following a category 3 hurricane, 38,000 people from Prospect Shore – a fictional neighborhood – need shelter. Ten finalists will be selected and paid \$10,000 “to revise their submissions into workable plans.”

Source:

http://www.nypost.com/seven/09282007/news/regionalnews/planning_emergency_central.htm

25. *September 28, The Leader Times* – (Pennsylvania) **911 center loses radio transmissions.** Lost radio transmissions at the Armstrong 911 center in Pittsburgh’s Courthouse Annex were restored after almost two hours Thursday evening when a back-up power system malfunctioned. A county emergency management agency director said the center’s backup power supply, known as the uninterrupted power supply, failed for an unknown reason, knocking out the center’s abilities to send and receive radio transmissions around 6:30 p.m. Thursday. He said there was no loss of 911 and non-emergency phones at the center, adding that the center is in the process of isolating the power supply to the center from the main power at the courthouse facility, and said that the power supply will have its own back-up system in the event of another power failure.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/leadertimes/s_529882.html

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Information Technology

26. *September 28, Vnunet.com* – (National) **Spammers exploit protests in Burma.** Spammers are exploiting the fight for democracy in Burma to spread malware, according to recent reports. The surge of media interest in Burma, or Myanmar as the ruling generals prefer, has led spammers to attempt to build up botnets. Emails have been spammed out purportedly from the Dalai Lama containing ‘information’ about the protests, in which Buddhist monks have been killed for requesting the right to democracy in their own country. “The message contains an attachment that looks like a Microsoft Word document but in fact harbors a Trojan that will give the hacker full access to the user’s computer.” Using topical news stories to trick unwary users into opening and downloading malicious code is a common, tested, and obviously still viable trick from the hackers’ playbook.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2199853/hackers-exploit-saffron>

27. *September 27, Computerworld* – (National) **Number of malicious e-mails bearing bad links balloons tenfold.** In a report published today, U.K.-based MessageLabs Ltd. said that 35 percent of the e-mail threats it now detects use embedded links to infect computers instead of the more traditional file attachments. In the March-June time frame, that figure was 20.2 percent, said the company. And in the opening quarter of 2007, a mere 3.3 percent of the intercepted threats carried links. The links, said a MessageLabs senior security analyst, lead unwary users directly to malware downloads or, increasingly, to purposefully-crafted sites that support malicious JavaScript code. “The volume of attacks using attachments has diminished over the last 18 months, while the number using links has shown a massive increase,” he said. MessageLabs’ data corroborates recent analyses by other security vendors, which have all noted the rapid increase in Web-based attacks – often from legitimate sites that have been

compromised by criminals. Such trusted sites make perfect lures for drawing in users, whose browsers are then typically attacked through one or more unpatched vulnerabilities, allowing rogue code – often spyware or a Trojan horse that hijacks the PC to add it to a growing botnet – to be installed. “The bad guys know that most people have learned not to open attachments,” said the MessageLabs specialist. “E-mail is still the preferred attacker vehicle for getting their ‘message’ across, but now they’re using links. They know people still follow links.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9039459&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

28. *September 27, Computerworld* – (National) **Now anyone can jam your cell phone.** Cell phone jammers, which scramble the signal of any incoming or outgoing cell phone call within a certain range, are illegal in the U.S. However, that does not stop dozens of online catalogs from selling them to American buyers. Although available for years, cell phone jammers are rare because they have been expensive, large and generally conspicuous looking. However, an online catalog called Brando, which specializes in all manner of USB gadgets and random peripheral devices, is now selling a very small and very inexpensive jammer. The jammer is smaller than a cell phone, costs only \$166 and shuts down GSM 850-, 900-, 1,800- and 1,900-MHz cell phone calls within a 30-foot radius. The jammer holds a rechargeable lithium ion battery and comes with a charger.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9039398>

29. *September 27, Consumeraffairs.com* – (National) **Senator wants new broadband policy.** With studies finding that the United States is falling further behind other countries in development of broadband access, Congress is beginning to consider new alternatives to the current telecom-cable stranglehold. Too many sections of the country have no broadband at all and in others, the price is prohibitive for working families and small businesses, a prominent senator told the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, which opened hearings on the issue yesterday. He added that “some experts estimate that universal broadband would add \$500 billion to the U.S. economy and create 1.2 million jobs.” Two FCC commissioners cited studies that showed the U.S.’s dismal rankings in worldwide broadband adoption. “Each year, we slip further down the regular rankings of broadband penetration...the fact is the U.S. has dropped year-after-year,” one said.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2007/09/kerry_broadband.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

30. *September 28, WOAI* – (Texas) **Gas leak at major shopping center.** The San Antonio Fire Department told local news station WOAI that there was a natural gas leak in an 8-inch gas main in the Rim Shopping Center between Target and JC Penny. The Fire Chief said that CPS Energy was able to get the leak under control quickly.
Source: http://www.woai.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=9ec0a9d0-5df8-4f2f-a816-dba67143d97d

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

31. *September 28, News & Record* – (Washington, DC) **Opposition building to sculptor of King monument.** A tempest is brewing over a statue of Martin Luther King, Jr. that will be unveiled in 2009 in Washington not far from the Lincoln Memorial. The towering three-story monument of the civil rights leader is being carved neither by an African American nor an American. The sculptor, Lei Yixin, is Chinese, and is carving King's statue at his studio in the city of Changsha, prompting critics to fret that it should arrive in America with a "Made in China" label.
Source: <http://www.news-record.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070928/NRSTAFF/709280302>

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Dams Sector

32. *September 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Environmental radical guilty in Calif.** Eric McDavid of Foresthill, California was found guilty on Thursday of "conspiring to burn down or blow up a northern California dam, a genetics lab, cell phone towers and other targets." He was caught in January 2006 buying bleach, a car battery, potassium chloride, and 'other items' prosecutors said were being used to build plastic explosives. The Nimbus Dam and the U.S. Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics were among the likely targets. McDavid was an environmental activist and selected the sites by their environmental impact.
Source:
<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iaGmRn7ColeUuBBcC0ZonwfewJiQD8RU7JI00>

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